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BALTIMORE, Jan. 19, 2005 – The Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing today announced that Baltimore County resident Master Sgt. Michele L. Vogel recently earned the distinction of First Sergeant of the Year for 2004. 1st Sgt. Vogel was selected by a board of senior non-commissioned officers based on her outstanding performance, leadership, and community involvement in the role of First Sergeant. This position is considered one of the most important assignments in the enlisted force. The First Sergeants is the senior enlisted member of the unit and is an advisors to the commander on all matters pertaining to enlisted members.

In addition to her position as First Sergeant, she is currently a fulltime employee of the Maryland Air National Guard, where she provides administrative support to the 175th Wing Commander, Vice Wing Commander and Wing Chief of Staff of the Maryland Air National Guard. She joined the office in 1998.

She has held the position of 175th Wing Headquarters First Sergeant since 2002 and graduated from Patapsco High School in 1989.

The Maryland Air National Guard is comprised of a State Headquarters in Baltimore, the 175th Wing at Martin State airport and its two flying units and support staff – the 104th Fighter Squadron and its A-10 jet fighters, and the 135th Airlift Squadron and its C-130J cargo aircraft. The Maryland Air National Guard, contributing nearly 80 million dollars annually to Maryland's economy, employs more than 1,600 full-time and traditional members.

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